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U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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April 26, 2006

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The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman  
Secretary  
Department of Energy  
Forrestal Building  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

Thank you for your letter of February 2, 2006, transmitting "Data Collection in Response to Section 1404 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005." You describe this report as "preliminary activity" done in response to Section 1404 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to conduct a study of direct and significant health impacts to persons resulting from living in proximity to petrochemical and oil refinery facilities and to transmit the results of that study to Congress by February 8, 2006 (six months after enactment on August 8, 2005).

While I appreciate receiving this progress report from DOE, my understanding from your letter is that you recognize that this "preliminary activity" does not meet the requirements of Section 1404. I would appreciate it if you would confirm my understanding that you will conduct the full study required by Section 1404. Please also provide a schedule showing planned completion dates for key milestones, including the date when you will send the final study to Congress.

As you note in your letter, Section 1404 directs DOE to consult with the Directors of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and other Federal Government bodies with expertise in the field. You state that you have communicated with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about the role of NCI. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also has considerable expertise in assessing the health impacts of air and water pollution from petrochemical and oil refinery facilities. As your preliminary assessment states, EPA is the primary agency charged with regulating pollution from these types of facilities. Do you intend to consult with EPA on this study? If not, please explain why not.

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman  
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I would appreciate a response by Wednesday, May 17, 2006. If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Ms. Lorie Schmidt, Minority Counsel to the Committee on Energy and Commerce at (202) 226-3400. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL  
RANKING MEMBER

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality

The Honorable Rick Boucher, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality